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➤ NEW ✦ TESTAMENT ✦ SUPPLEMENT ✦
OF
The Old Testament Student.

INDUCTIVE BIBLE-STUDIES.—SECOND SERIES.

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Forty Studies on the Life of the Christ, based on the Gospel of Mark.

Edited by William R. Harper, Yale University, New Haven.

STUDY XXXVII.—THE PLAN AND METHODS OF JESUS.*

I. His Early Life and Thought.

1. Note carefully the following statements concerning the early life, work and thoughts of Jesus: (a) the promise to Mary, Lk. 1:28-35; (b) to Joseph, Mt. 1:20,21; (c) to the shepherds, Lk. 2:10-14,17-20; (d) the words of Simeon, Lk. 2:25-35; (e) growth of Jesus, Lk. 2:40, 52; (f) Jesus in the temple, Lk. 2:46-51; (g) his work, Mk. 6:3.
2. What may be inferred from the above statements (and others) as to the idea that Jesus had of his mission?† Note the following views and decide between them: (a) Jesus, influenced by expectations which others cherished for him and forced by the desires of the people, let himself be regarded as the Christ; (b) Jesus, conscious from the beginning of a unique relation to God, recognized a divine call to be also the Christ to his people; (c) this consciousness developed with his growth in mental and spiritual power; (d) his knowledge of the details of his mission came to him in the course of his work; (e) he was fully aware from the first of all the events and the issue of his ministry.

II. His Plan.*

1. Study the following events and teachings to ascertain what they reveal as to the plan of Jesus: 1) Jesus and John the Baptist, Mt. 3:1,2,11,12,13-17; Lk. 3:15-17,21,22; consider the testimony of these things to (a) his Messianic consciousness; (b) his Messianic purpose; 2) the temptation, Mt. 4:1-10 and par.; bearing of this on (a) his idea of the Christ, and (b) the work the Christ was to do; 3) his declarations and actions, (a) Mt. 4:17;

* Upon the subjects of this "Study" the best and fullest discussion is found in Neander, *Life of Christ*, Book IV.; Lange, *Life of Jesus*, Book II., Part 3.

† Vallings, chs. 6, 7.; Neander, Book II., ch. 2.

10:7; Lk. 9:60; 17:21; Mt. 16:18; (b) John 6:15; 18:36; (c) Lk. 24:25-27; Mt. 20:28; (d) John 4:25,26; Mt. 16:16,17; Mk. 14:61,62; (e) Mk. 3:11,12; Mt. 16:20; (f) Mk. 2:17; Mt. 19:14; Lk. 19:10; John 12:47.

2. In view of these facts, 1) let the student write out a brief summary of the plan of Jesus; 2) consider whether it may be characterized by (a) originality; (b) boldness; 3) what ground for asserting a unity in the plan from first to last?

III. His Methods.

1. Having gained a general idea of the plan, proceed to study the methods by which the plan was carried out. Make a list of these as complete as possible; e. g. 1) public teaching addressed (a) to the leaders in Jerusalem; (b) to the common people in Galilee, etc.; 2) choice, training and mission of disciples; 3) miracles; 4) death and resurrection. Enumerate any others which may be reasonably included.
2. Study these methods in detail, e. g.:
 - 1) **Teaching.** (a) Read Luke ch. 11 as an example; (b) note the persons addressed, (1) disciples; (2) people; (3) individuals; (4) classes of society; (c) note some characteristics of the teaching, (1) brief, pithy sayings; (2) relative predominance of assertion over argument; (3) figurative language; (4) parables; (5) long discourses as well as brief sayings; (d) significance of (1) prominence given to teaching; (2) the abundance of parable in the teaching; (e) its success in the carrying out of his plan.
 - 2) **The Disciples.** (a) Note the following passages: (1) Mk. 3:13-19; Lk. 7:11; (2) Mt. 10:1,5-42; Lk. 10:1-20; (3) Mt. 13:51,52; Mk. 4:11; Mt. 17:9; 16:20; Mk. 9:31; (b) observe that they are trained to be (1) teachers; (2) the nucleus of an organization, Mt. 16:18; 19:14; John 21:16; (c) their part in fulfilling the plan.
 - 3) **Miracles.** Review the Gospel miracles from this point of view and (a) classify them†, e. g. miracles (1) on nature; (2) on man, (3) on the spirit-world; (b) consider how the people regarded them, John 3:2; Mk. 4:41, etc.; (c) the purpose of Jesus,‡ whether (1) as signs that he is the Christ, or (2) as a part of his self-revelation of character, or (3) as a pledge of the future; (d) their part in the accomplishment of his plan.
 - 4) **His Death and Resurrection.** (a) Read the following passages: John 3:14,15; 12:24,32,33; Lk. 18:31-33; 24:25-27; (b) in what respect may these events be regarded as means in carrying out his plan? cf. Acts 2:22-36; (c) what may be said in favor of the view that he had these events in mind from the beginning of his work?

* For a discussion of this topic see Liddon, *Our Lord's Divinity*, Lect. iii, also Schaff-Herzog *Ency.*, p. 1171 seq.

† Westcott, *Introduction to the Gospels*, Appendix E.

‡ Bruce, *The Galilean Gospel*, ch. 8,—a book which might be very profitably read in connection with "Studies" 37 and 39.